

9/11 Interview

Ankur Holz and Jeffrey Tse

We are working on a project about 9/11. We would greatly appreciate it if you could answer the following questions. You could possibly be quoted on our website. Please mark answers that you would like to be kept confidential.

Name: Angela Brock-Bokern

Date: 9/23/12

Location at time of attack: 2WTC, 61st Fl

1. Where were you on 9/11 and why were you there?

I arrived in my office for my 7am meeting. I worked for Morgan Stanley. My office was in 2WTC, 61st Fl.

2. How did 9/11 affect the way you personally live today?

Life is too short doing things that I don't want to do. I only agree to do things that I want to do. I enjoy every day of my life. I am self-employed and love the freedom in my life and schedule.

3. Do you believe that America acted correctly in response to the attack? Did you support the war in Afghanistan, and in retrospect, how did it affect America as a whole?

During the immediate months following the attack, I believe America responded accordingly by invading Afghanistan. But your question is, "Did America act correctly in response to the attack?" The non-specific question allows me to elaborate...I believe that American leadership missed an opportunity to utilize the American people. War was not the only response. The American people wanted to help and be involved. We could have mobilized the American people to physically volunteer and do more. There was so much opportunity to do so many things. We could have encouraged education, mentorships, blood drives, so many opportunities. I think war as the only response was inappropriate.

4. Do you believe that 9/11 contributed to a downturn in the economy? If so, how did it personally affect you?

Absolutely. I knew the minute it happened that it was going to affect the economy. I moved some things to cash. The markets are about confidence, and upsetting the confidence is our markets was their objective. They succeeded. However, our markets were already experiencing difficulties. The timing was effective too.

5. How have you connected with other survivors, did you lose friends or coworkers?

I stayed in touch with some people that I was close to. I cut some other people off because they were apart of the tragedy, and I didn't want to be around them. The tragedy had become the defining point of our friendship, and I didn't want to be reminded of it. Some co-workers died, and it was sad. There are some people who I do not know if they made it, and for months following the attacks, I scoured the NY Times for the faces and names of the perished to find the people. For instance, the mail guy and the lady who cleaned my office. I only knew their first names. I don't know what happened to them. Then there are others that I watched die or I am pretty sure they died. I don't know their names, but I will always remember their faces.

6. How do you feel about the increased security and defense measures that the government has taken? Do you agree or disagree with them?

I agree with security and long security lines on public transportation. I appreciate the vigilance taken to ensure our safety. I turn people in at the airport if they breach the security measures because my life is precious to me. I don't apologize for that either. If people don't have respect for the system, then don't fly. Immediately after the attacks, I drove two hours to use alternate airports or drove 1000 miles instead of flying just to feel safer.

Please write any comments about the social, economic, or political impact that you personally think 9/11 had on America:

Socially: Every American now knows what a terrorist attack is. Pre 9/11, Americans didn't pay much attention. When the USS Cole was bombed in Yemen, it barely registered on the American pulse. I was in the Salt Lake City airport when that happened, and I will always remember some travelers' responses. They bothered me because Americans died that day. That attack just came and went. 9/11 taught Americans about terrorism.

Economically: Significant. Markets need confidence and that was shattered. We were economically in a poor position prior to 9/11 (fundamentally), but we had to put on a good face that we were resilient. The Bush tax cuts were issued to promote consumer spending, and it did. However, it masked a real problem that we were not able to address. Then add Wall Street greed and corruption, which was allowed so politically we looked economically strong, then the bottom fell out. The facade could not be maintained. But it was far enough from the attacks to not be blamed on the attacks.

Politically: The Iraq War was only possible because of the attacks. The government was given a lot of control after the attacks: profiling, wire taps, etc.

Please let me know if you have any questions!

Good luck